

- 95 -

CLAIMS

1. An instrument panel image display device, installed
on an apparatus so as to display an instrument panel image,
5 said instrument panel image display device being
characterized by comprising:

display means for displaying the instrument panel image
including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external
information of the apparatus is provided to a user, in
10 accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image;
and

image data changing means for changing the image data,
which codes the gauge-like image, into image data, which
codes other gauge-like image.

15 2. The instrument panel image display device as set
forth in claim 1, further comprising

parameter changing means for changing a value
indicated by a parameter which defines a display state of the
20 gauge-like image into other value.

3. The instrument panel image display device as set
forth in claim 2, further comprising

parameter judging means for judging whether the value
25 indicated by the parameter is within a predetermined range or

- 96 -

not.

4. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 3, wherein

5 in case where the parameter judging means judges that the value indicated by the parameter is not within the predetermined range,

the parameter changing means changes the value indicated by the parameter into a value within the
10 predetermined range.

5. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 4, wherein

the parameter changing means changes the value
15 indicated by the parameter into a value closest to a set value within the predetermined range.

6. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein

20 the parameter defines at least a size and a color of the gauge-like image.

7. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising

25 image data obtaining means for obtaining image data,

- 97 -

which codes said other gauge-like image, via a network line, from a server having a storage section which stores the image data.

5 8. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein:

the apparatus is a vehicle, and

the instrument panel image includes at least a speedometer image indicative of a running speed of the vehicle as the gauge-like image, and

10 the parameter changing means changes the parameter so that the speedometer image is disposed in front of a driver or in a predetermined position in a visual field of the driver.

15 9. An instrument panel image display device, installed on an apparatus so as to display an instrument panel image, said instrument panel image display device being characterized by comprising:

20 display means for displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information is provided to a user, and a background image, which serves as a background of the gauge-like image, in accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image and image data which codes the background image; and

25 image data changing means for changing the image data,

- 98 -

which codes the background image, into image data, which codes other background image.

10. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 9, further comprising

parameter changing means for changing a value indicated by a parameter which defines a display state of the background image into other value.

11. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising

parameter judging means for judging whether the value indicated by the parameter is within a predetermined range or not.

12. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 11, wherein

in case where the parameter judging means judges that the value indicated by the parameter is not within the predetermined range,

the parameter changing means changes the value indicated by the parameter into a value within the predetermined range.

13. The instrument panel image display device as set

- 99 -

forth in any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein

the parameter defines at least either a color or luminance of the background image.

5 14. The instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein

the parameter changing means changes a parameter of at least either the gauge-like image or the background image so that a periphery of the gauge-like image is bordered.

10

15. A server, providing the image data which codes said other gauge-like image to the instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 7.

15 16. An instrument panel image changing system, comprising the instrument panel image display device as set forth in claim 7 and the server as set forth in claim 15.

20 17. A vehicle, comprising the instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 and 9 to 14.

25 18. A method of changing an instrument panel image displayed in an instrument panel image display device installed on an apparatus, said method being characterized

- 100 -

by comprising the steps of:

displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information of the apparatus is provided to a user, in accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image; and

changing the image data, which codes the gauge-like image, into image data, which codes other gauge-like image.

19. A method of changing an instrument panel image displayed in an instrument panel image display device installed on an apparatus, said method being characterized by comprising the steps of:

displaying the instrument panel image including a gauge-like image, by which internal and external information of the apparatus is provided to a user, and a background image, which serves as a background of the gauge-like image, in accordance with image data which codes the gauge-like image and image data which codes the background image; and

changing the image data, which codes the background image, into image data, which codes other background image.

20. An instrument panel image display program, causing the instrument panel image display device as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8 and 9 to 14 to operate, said instrument panel image display program being characterized by causing a

- 101 -

computer to function as the aforementioned means.

21. A computer-readable storage medium, storing the
instrument panel image display program as set forth in claim
20.

5